

ROMANIA

SPECIFICATIONS (What you have to know)	DISTRICTS, COMMUNES AND VINEYARDS Wine-producing regions: Târnave, Cotnari, Dealul Mare, Murfatlar KEY LIGHT WINES Red Wine from an international grape variety (eg Pinot Noir, Merlot) KEY FACTORS Grape varieties: Feteasca, international		
HISTORY	7thBC: coastal region settled by Ancient Greeks who probably started viticulture 1861-1914: Romania's political unification 1884: Phylloxera hits > resistant hybrids dominated production until 1930s 1947-89: Communist regime w government's stronghold on research establishments, wine estates (nationalised) and co-operative vineyards linked to the wine estates 1990s: privatisation w dismantling of coops, restitution of land to former private owners but quality dropped due to lack of expertise and/or finance Since late 1990s: active restructuring of the industry to attract more foreign investment Now: huge quality potential but still desperate need for more investment		
CLIMATE & WEATHER	Continental climate excl. Black Sea where Maritime Sea breezes on the Black Sea coast and by the Danube in the South and Southwest		
SOILS & TOPOGRAPHY	Black sea on eastern coast Dominated by the Carpathian mountains that curve across the country. Variety of soils: generally stony & free draining by the Carpathians; alluvial & sandy nearer the coast		
GRAPE VARIETIES	Wide variety of American vines, hybrids, native and European vines: <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Reds</u> 1. Cabernet Sauvignon Not as widely planted as in Bulgaria 2. Pinot Noir Main export variety Others: Kekoporto, Kefrankos </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Whites</u> 1. Feteasca 2 types: Alba and Regala Both produce fresh, perfumed, dry whites Most planted variety by far (25,000ha) Alba used in Cotnari sweet white blend 2. Riesling Italico aka Welschriesling Needs warm, nutrient-rich soils Ripens late Usually simple light wines but can produce good dry & great sweet wines Others: Riesling, Sauv Blanc, Pino Gris, Aligoté, Rkatsiteli, Muscat Ottonel, Gewurztraminer </td></tr> </table> COURSE TASTING NOTES Premium Romanian Pinot Noir dedicated to exports - Ruby colour, medium intensity of ripe fruit characters: cherry, blackberry, cooked strawberries. Also dark chocolate, vanilla, smoke, cedar. Dry, medium + acidity, medium + ripe tannins, medium + body (fatter & fuller // Burgundy). COURSE TASTING NOTES Romanian Merlot for export markets - Deep garnet colour, medium + intense nose of 1ary fruit: cooked cherries, black pepper, 2dary notes of vanilla. Dry palate, medium + acidity, medium + ripe tannins, high alcohol, medium + body.	<u>Reds</u> 1. Cabernet Sauvignon Not as widely planted as in Bulgaria 2. Pinot Noir Main export variety Others: Kekoporto, Kefrankos	<u>Whites</u> 1. Feteasca 2 types: Alba and Regala Both produce fresh, perfumed, dry whites Most planted variety by far (25,000ha) Alba used in Cotnari sweet white blend 2. Riesling Italico aka Welschriesling Needs warm, nutrient-rich soils Ripens late Usually simple light wines but can produce good dry & great sweet wines Others: Riesling, Sauv Blanc, Pino Gris, Aligoté, Rkatsiteli, Muscat Ottonel, Gewurztraminer
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VITICULTURE	250,000ha of vines with ~100,000ha Irrigation permitted but rarely used. Mechanical harvesting still a novelty. Key hazards: severe winter cold, spring frosts, summer droughts, harvest rain		
WINEMAKING	Considerable modernisation thanks to SAPARD funding w bottling lines, temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks, new presses and water treatment. Use of Romanian oak chips and barrel widespread Consultant winemakers and travelling Romanian winemakers help build expertise Cotnari: sweet white wine produced from Botrytised grapes of any of 4 traditional varieties i.e. Grasa, Tamaioasa, Francusa and Feteasca Alba. Produced in the North.		
WINE APPELLATIONS & STYLES	8 regions but 4 key ones 1. Muntenia & Oltenia (30% of plantings) - Dealul Mare subregion - South facing slopes of the Carpathian foothills, 50km north of Bucharest - Historic region w vineyards at altitudes (130-600m) - Annual rainfall 640mm Mainly reds with Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet and local varieties		

	2. Dobrogea (20% of plantings) - o Murfatlar subregion - o Coastal subregion of the Black Sea; 50km north of the Bulgarian border. - o Warm climate w 300 days of sunshine and low rainfall in growing season - o Limestone soils - o Best known for whites including Chardonnay and Pinot Gris but also soft Merlot and Cab Sauv 3. Moldova - o Area in the North-east of the country, along the border w the Republic of Moldova - o Home to Cotnari region, one of the oldest wine region 4. Transylvania - o High Central region, north-west of Bucharest; oldest wine region in the country - o Cooler region with vineyards up to 300m on steep slopes - o Tarnave region - o Traditional varieties i.e. Feteascsas, Welschriesling and Muscat Ottonel dominate but also some Austrian Neuburger. - o Wines predominantly white with a similar appealing acidity to Mosel
WINE LAWS & CLASIIFICATION	New EU-friendly system introduced in 2002 with: Vin de Masa – table wine; Special wines being fortified or liqueur Vin Cu Indicatie Geografica – equivalent to VdP Denumire de Origine Controlata (DOC) – high quality wine from a controlled appellation of origin with different sub-categories depending on sugar level at harvest
PRODUCTION & BUSINESS	97% of production consumed locally w white wines dominating (2/3 of volume consumed) Exports mainly to Moldova and Germany Key producers include Italian-backed Vinarte (2.6m btls), Guy de Poix's SERVE, Carl Reh Winery and Reca Winery.

ROMANIA WINE MAP

